

Appl. No. : 10/646,333
Filed : August 22, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 77-123 are pending in this application. Claims 1-76 have been canceled. New Claims 77-123 have been added. Support for the new claims is found in the specification and claims as filed.

The specification has been amended to add application numbers for copending applications referenced therein.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 9, 10, 12, 15, 36, 41, 44-60, 67, 68, 70, 72, and 74-76 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. 5,833,603 to Kovacs et al. Although Applicants do not agree with the propriety of the rejection, Claims 1, 9, 10, 12, 15, 36, 41, 44-60, 67, 68, 70, 72, and 74-76 have been canceled without prejudice, solely to pursue new Claims 77-123. Applicants reserve the ability to pursue the canceled claims, or similar claims, in one or more continuing patent applications. The rejection is therefore moot.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 7, 67, and 69 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. 6,049,727 to Crothall. Although Applicants do not agree with the propriety of the rejection, Claims 1, 7, 67, and 69 have been canceled without prejudice, solely to pursue new Claims 77-123. Applicants reserve the ability to pursue the canceled claims, or similar claims, in one or more continuing patent applications. The rejection is therefore moot.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 2 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over U.S. 5,833,603 to Kovacs et al. in view of U.S. Publ. No. 2003/0125613 to Enegren et al. Although Applicants do not agree with the propriety of the rejection, Claims 2 and 7 have been canceled without prejudice, solely to pursue new Claims 77-123. Applicants reserve the ability to pursue the canceled claims, or similar claims, in one or more continuing patent applications. The rejection is therefore moot.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 17, 42, and 43 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over U.S. 5,833,603 to Kovacs et al. in view of U.S. 6,454,710 to Ballerstadt et al., and further in view of U.S. 4,197,840 Beck et al. Although Applicants do not agree with the propriety of the rejection, Claims 17, 42, and 43 have been canceled without prejudice, solely to pursue new Claims 77-

Appl. No. : 10/646,333
Filed : August 22, 2003

123. Applicants reserve the ability to pursue the canceled claims, or similar claims, in one or more continuing patent applications. The rejection is therefore moot.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 61-63 and 73 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over U.S. 5,833,603 to Kovacs et al. in view of U.S. 4,927,407 to Dorman. Although Applicants do not agree with the propriety of the rejection, Claims 61-63 and 73 have been canceled without prejudice, solely to pursue new Claims 77-123. Applicants reserve the ability to pursue the canceled claims, or similar claims, in one or more continuing patent applications. The rejection is therefore moot.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 31, 32, 35, and 71 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over U.S. 5,833,603 to Kovacs et al. in view of U.S. 6,409,674 to Brockway et al. Although Applicants do not agree with the propriety of the rejection, Claims 31, 32, 35, and 71 have been canceled without prejudice, solely to pursue new Claims 77-123. Applicants reserve the ability to pursue the canceled claims, or similar claims, in one or more continuing patent applications. The rejection is therefore moot.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 33 and 34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over U.S. 5,833,603 to Kovacs et al. in view of U.S. Publ. No. 2003/0114735 to Silver et al. Although Applicants do not agree with the propriety of the rejection, Claims 33 and 34 have been canceled without prejudice, solely to pursue new Claims 77-123. Applicants reserve the ability to pursue the canceled claims, or similar claims, in one or more continuing patent applications. The rejection is therefore moot.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 37-40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over U.S. 5,833,603 to Kovacs et al. Although Applicants do not agree with the propriety of the rejection, Claims 37-40 have been canceled without prejudice, solely to pursue new Claims 77-123. Applicants reserve the ability to pursue the canceled claims, or similar claims, in one or more continuing patent applications. The rejection is therefore moot.

Conclusion

Appl. No. : 10/646,333
Filed : August 22, 2003

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining concerns that might prevent the prompt allowance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

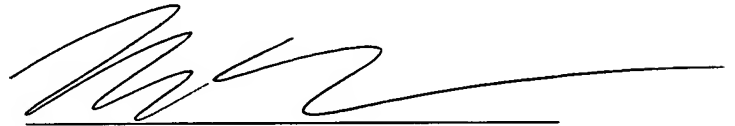
Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: _____

12/28/04

By: _____



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